

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein a plurality of the bits are reserved for
2 defining an interface index value.
- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, and further comprising utilizing the interface
2 index value to identify an interface of the network component to be scanned in
3 accordance with the policy.
- 1 9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the interface index value is utilized to
2 look up the interface in an index table.
- 1 10. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein a plurality of the bits are reserved for
2 defining a subnet selector value.
- 1 11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the subnet selector value indicates
2 which subnet mask to use.
- 1 12. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising scanning the particular
2 one of the network components utilizing the determined policy.
- 1 13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the particular one of the network
2 components is equipped with a scanner adapted to utilizing the policy for
3 scanning purposes.
- 1 14. A computer program product for configuring policies among a plurality of
2 network components equipped with scanners, comprising:
3 (a) computer code for receiving an Internet Protocol (IP) address at a particular one
4 of a plurality of network components equipped with a scanner, wherein the same

- 5 IP address is utilized to configure policies among a plurality of the network
6 components;
- 7 (b) computer code for identifying a portion of the IP address at the particular one of
8 the network components; and
- 9 (c) computer code for determining a policy unique to the particular one of the
10 network components utilizing the identified portion of the IP address.
- 1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the network
2 components include hosts.
- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the IP is IPv4.
- 1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the portion of the
2 IP address includes a network part of the IP address.
- 1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the policy
2 dictates which hosts are to be scanned.
- 1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 14 wherein the portion of the
2 IP address includes a predetermined number of bits of the IP address.
- 1 20. The computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein a plurality of the
2 bits are reserved for defining an interface index value.
- 1 21. The computer program product as recited in claim 20, and further comprising
2 computer code for utilizing the interface index value to identify an interface of
3 the network component to be scanned in accordance with the policy.

- 1 22. The computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the interface
2 index value is utilized to look up the interface in an index table.
- 1 23. The computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein a plurality of the
2 bits are reserved for defining a subnet selector value.
- 1 24. The computer program product as recited in claim 23, wherein the subnet
2 selector value indicates which subnet mask to use.
- 1 25. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, and further comprising
2 computer code for scanning the particular one of the network components
3 utilizing the determined policy.
- 1 26. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the particular one
2 of the network components is equipped with a scanner adapted to utilizing the
3 policy for scanning purposes.
- 1 27. A system for configuring policies among a plurality of network components
2 equipped with scanners, comprising:
3 (a) logic for receiving an Internet Protocol (IP) address at a particular one of a
4 plurality of network components equipped with a scanner, wherein the same IP
5 address is utilized to configure policies among a plurality of the network
6 components;
7 (b) logic for identifying a portion of the IP address at the particular one of the
8 network components; and
9 (c) logic for determining a policy unique to the particular one of the network
10 components utilizing the identified portion of the IP address.

- 1 28. A method for generating an Internet Protocol (IP) address for configuring a
2 policy among a plurality of network components equipped with scanners,
3 comprising:
4 (a) generating an IP address;
5 (b) transmitting the IP address to a plurality of network components each equipped
6 with a scanner;
7 (c) wherein the network components are each capable of identifying a portion of the
8 IP address, and determining a policy unique to the network component utilizing
9 the identified portion of the IP address.
- 1 29. An Internet Protocol (IP) address data structure for configuring a policy among a
2 plurality of network components equipped with scanners, comprising:
3 (a) an interface object for identifying an interface to be scanned in accordance with
4 a policy; and
5 (b) a subnetwork object for identifying a mask to use in determining a subnetwork
6 to be scanned in accordance with the policy.
- 1 30. A method for embedding information in an Internet Protocol (IP) address for
2 scanning purposes, comprising:
3 (a) embedding information in an IP address; and
4 (b) sending the IP address to a plurality of network components;
5 (c) wherein the information is capable of being used by a scanner for scanning
6 purposes.
- 1 31. A computer program product for embedding information in an Internet Protocol
2 (IP) address for scanning purposes, comprising:
3 (a) computer code for embedding information in an IP address; and
4 (b) computer code for sending the IP address to a plurality of network components;

5 (c) wherein the information is capable of being used by a scanner for scanning
6 purposes.